

**Board Meeting Minutes  
December 4, 2008**



**I. Call to Order**

Vice Chairman Weygandt called the meeting to order at 9:04AM.

**II. Oath of Office for New Boardmembers**

Deputy Attorney General Christine Sproul administered the oath of office to new Boardmembers Robert Schladale representing the Department of Finance and Todd Ferrera representing the Resources Agency.

**III. Roll Call**

Present: John Brissenden, Todd Ferrera (alternate for Mike Chrisman, Brian Dahle, Byng Hunt, Jon McQuiston, Bob Kirkwood, Robert Schladale (alternate for Tom Sheehy), Byron Sher, Robert Weygandt, Steve Wilensky, Ron Warner alternate for Rose Comstock, Beth Pendleton, Bill Haigh and David Graber.

Absent: BJ Kirwan

**IV. Approval of October 2, 2008 Meeting Minutes**

There were no changes to the Meeting Minutes.

**Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Wilensky seconded a motion to approve the October 2, 2008 Board Meeting Minutes. Boardmember Dahle and Boardmember Warner abstained from voting. The motion passed unanimously.**

**V. Public Comments**

Vice Chair Weygandt asked for public comment on items not on the agenda.

Pete Devine, Education Programs Coordinator, Yosemite Association indicated that his organization is pursuing a grant for their watershed classroom project. He acknowledged SNC for the hard work in the communities and environmental sustainability efforts.

**VI. Chairman's Report**

**a. State Budget Update**

Vice Chair Weygandt asked Executive Officer Branham to update the Board on the current situation. Branham noted it is a difficult situation in Sacramento and will get into the SNC budget further in his report to the Board. Branham asked Boardmember Schladale to comment on the overall budget.

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

### **December 4, 2008**

Schlada stated that the state's spending deficit is at \$28 billion and rising and will grow because the economy continues to deteriorate. He indicated that bonds are "supported by the state's General Fund," but with the state credit rating there is a question as to whether the state can even sell bonds. He noted that some public agencies have attempted to sell bonds and have received no bidders; this is a serious situation and will need cooperation across the board.

#### **b. Report from Future Funding Board Committee**

Boardmember Wilensky gave an overview of a meeting of the Future Funding Committee on which he and Boardmember Sher serve stating there were four basic areas considered: 1) Identifying additional sources of funding and developing partnerships with other agencies; 2) Ensure support of SNC in future bond ballot measures as a more long term effort; 3) Capitalize on and use the experience of "SNC's superb staff" for fund distribution, on a fee-for-service basis; 4) Increase public and private partnerships by targeting urban areas such as the San Francisco Bay area indicating that the area greatly benefits from the nature of the projects that we embark upon.

Wilensky suggested we reflect on the results of the last election, in terms of what it means for our Region, especially regarding economic conversion. He stated that the SNC needs to be ready with clear plans and an inspired vision. He also indicated that the committee is evaluating the SNC license plate effort. He noted the goal for the March Board meeting is to share a list of short, mid-term, and long-term goals and that the committee has asked staff to look into other non-profits, for models to examine.

Boardmember Sher added that there are people considering another bond issue in 2010, which may have components for the SNC.

Branham stated he has had discussions regarding Prop 84 Sustainable Communities funding, which has not been appropriated. He noted that the SNC is looking for its fair share of those funds.

#### **c. Subregional Representatives for 2009-10**

Vice Chair Weygandt noted that four Boardmembers were rotating off the Board effective December 31<sup>st</sup> and reminded current outgoing members to please get notification to SNC staff designating new members if this has not already occurred. He stated that new representatives identified to date include Kim Yamaguchi for the North Central Subregion; Hal Stocker for the Central Subregion and Don Jardine for the East Subregion. Boardmember Dahle stated he will notify SNC once the North Subregion representative has not selected.

## **Board Meeting Minutes December 4, 2008**

### **VII. Election of Vice Chair**

Vice Chair Weygandt indicated that it was time to elect a new Vice Chair. Boardmember Dahle nominated Boardmember Wilensky and there were no other nominations.

**Action: Boardmember Dahle moved and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded a motion to nominate Boardmember Wilensky as the 2009 Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **VIII. Executive Officer's Report**

#### **a. Budget/Staffing Update**

Executive Officer Branham gave an overview to the Board on the current SNC budget, noting that the SNC was able to bring retired annuitants back, which has given staff some relief. He stated that under the Executive Order there is still no overtime allowed by employees and he is anticipating mandatory furloughs, where each employee will be required to take a day off per month, without pay, which will have some impact on the current workload. Branham stated that the Environmental License Plate Fund (ELPF) has been under increasing stress with the reserve spent and projections for declining revenue. He said that therefore, the SNC was anticipating the Governor's budget will contain a reduction for the SNC's base operating budget.

Branham reported that SNC has hired Tristyn Armstrong as the new Executive Assistant, noting that the SNC is pretty much up to full staffing and does not have any vacancies left to fill. He also reported on the two contracts with RCDs in Mariposa and Placer Counties noting that these contracts help meet some specific technical needs for the SNC.

Boardmember Schladale stated that the Department of Finance does not know if work furloughs will happen, adding that in the November legislative session there was not an agreement with the Governor's proposal. Boardmember Schladale stated that in order for furloughs to take affect bargaining units/unions will need to be consulted.

Boardmember Kirkwood suggested flexibility in the furlough would help, suggesting the office close between Christmas and New Year's, like the private sector. Vice Chair Weygandt stated in Placer County they have realized additional savings by closing the facilities during this time as well.

#### **b. Sierra Nevada License Plate Update**

Branham reviewed the background and current status of the SNC License plate effort, noting there have been challenges in securing funding for the marketing campaign. He indicated that since the October Board meeting the SNC has

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

### **December 4, 2008**

worked with The Sierra Fund and Secretary Chrisman to get signed letters to potential funders and Boardmembers. He noted that the Sierra Fund has created a Web site and brochure to help facilitate the marketing effort and that the only thing needed at this point is money to kick-off marketing. Branham stated the Board should revisit this issue at the March meeting.

#### **c. Northern Sierra Partnership Overview**

Branham indicated that he and Boardmember Weygandt represented the SNC at the October 8 Northern Sierra Partnership (NSP) kick-off event, featuring Governor Schwarzenegger at Donner Lake. He introduced Alex Mas, representing the Northern Sierra Partnership (NSP), to provide an overview of the Partnership and its goals.

Mas stated he has been working for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in the Sierra for the past eight years; he is currently on loan from TNC to lead the NSP effort. Mas described the NSP's area of interest ranges from south of Lake Tahoe to Lassen National Park, with a focus on areas with high water yield and carbon storage potential. He discussed issues including carbon sequestration and the threat of fire and indicated the complex nature of the Region and the potential threats facing it require a more collaborative approach to protecting the area's valuable resources.

Mas recognized the Morgan Family Foundation for convening a group of conservation organizations active in this geographic area – organizations that the Foundation has funded in the past. This resulted in an effort in which The Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Sierra Business Council, Feather River Land Trust and Truckee Donner Land Trust are working collaboratively to raise funds and identify and implement high-priority conservation and restoration projects in the project area. The goal is to raise funds to implement its priority projects, including \$75 -100 million in private funds to match \$225 – 300 million in public dollars.

Mas believes the NSP and the SNC have an opportunity to use this innovative public-private partnership as a vehicle for coordinating and enhancing conservation efforts in the Northern Sierra. He identified three specific areas of overlapping interest:

1. strategic planning - sharing finalized strategic planning efforts to identify opportunities for collaboration;
2. funding – facilitating dialogue between the SNC and NSP members and other partners on grant proposals for work in the area; and
3. SNC's Climate Change Initiative – working together to identify demonstration or pilot projects to model adaptation strategies and tools.

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 4, 2008**

Boardmember Hunt asked whether any agencies in the State of Nevada are part of the partnership, since the area of interest spills over into Nevada. Mas indicated that there is Nevada agencies involved, especially in the Truckee River watershed.

Boardmember Kirkwood informed the Board that he has served on the steering committee for the creation of the NSP. By way of background, he reported that the partnership's initial area of interest focused on the Truckee and Feather River watersheds but the group added areas targeted by the Trust for Public Land as part of its "checkerboard" project. Kirkwood expressed how impressed he is with the efforts of Becky and Jim Morgan and willingness of the partnership organizations to share fundraising strategies. He believes this can be used as a model in other parts of the Region. Kirkwood also pointed out that any grants made to these organizations will leverage the matching funds the group is soliciting.

Boardmember Weygandt mentioned that Placer County started an open space policy in 2000, which has now protected more than 12,000 acres. He indicated that the County did not necessarily have expertise in conducting complex land conservation projects, so they relied on some of the NSP partners for the technical aspects of these deals. He noted that for one project in Placer/Nevada counties, four of these five partners were involved and that collaboration is very important to the Region.

### **d. Stewardship Council Update**

Branham referenced the presentation given in October by Soapy Mulholland and noted the Board's interest in continuing to work with the Stewardship Council. SNC will stay abreast of the pilot projects including Doyle Springs (in Tulare County) and Bucks Lake (in Plumas County). He said a committee including Boardmembers Haigh and McQuiston will likely meet at the beginning of the year to discuss SNC's potential role.

### **e. Outreach Activities**

Branham noted this will be added as ongoing agenda item. He stated some of the events since the October Board meeting include: the Governor's event regarding the Northern Sierra Partnership and event celebrating the completion of the Modoc Line transaction. Boardmember Kirkwood noted for clarification that the SNC's involvement with the Modoc Line consisted of staff involvement and not a grant. Branham indicated that the SNC did make a small financial contribution towards the appraisal but not via a grant. Boardmember Dahle thanked SNC staff for their assistance and support stating they were at a stopping point until SNC got involved.

Branham notified the Board of a meeting with National Geographic regarding their Geotourism initiative. He noted the discussion was primarily related to a series of

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 4, 2008**

Sierra Nevada maps that would highlight various geotourism opportunities in the Region, and that an update will be provided at the March meeting.

### **f. County Board of Supervisors Presentations**

Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Manager and Kim Carr, Mt. Whitney Area Manager provided an update on presentations to County Boards of Supervisors per Board direction at the December meeting. Both reported that presentations had begun and the remaining will be scheduled and completed by the end of the fiscal year.

## **IX. Deputy Attorney General's Report**

Deputy Attorney General, Christine Sproul, provided information to the Board regarding statewide efforts to manage greenhouse gas emissions and suggested that SNC may have a role to play in efforts related to carbon sequestration in Sierra forests and watershed protection.

Specifically, she provided information on the status of three chaptered pieces of legislation:

- The Air Resources Board (ARB) has developed a scoping plan as part of its implementation of AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The plan contains the main strategies California will use to reduce the greenhouse gases that cause climate change. The ARB is scheduled to adopt the plan next week and then will begin the development of associated regulations.
- SB 375 directs urban communities to address sustainability in their planning efforts, including limiting greenhouse gas emissions.
- SB 97 directs Resources Agency and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to include greenhouse gas emission impacts in amendments to CEQA guidelines.

## **X. Proposed Amendments to SNC's Conflict of Interest (ACTION)**

Deputy Attorney General Sproul explained that SNC organizational changes that occurred since adoption of the SNC's original Conflict of Interest regulation created a need to update the regulation. She stated that the proposed changes are consistent with the staff changes and position titles reflected in SNC's current organizational chart. A Notice of Intent to amend has been filed with the Office of Administrative Law (AOL) and the public comment period will run through January 12, 2009. She recommended that the Board adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Officer to approve and adopt amendments to the conflict of interest code for the SNC in substantially the form proposed, including any necessary minor technical changes, and directing the Executive Officer to take the necessary actions to complete the rulemaking process, noting this would allow the code amendments to be completed before the next cycle for filing statements of economic disclosure. If, however, substantive changes to the proposed amendments be recommended, she

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 4, 2008**

recommended that the resolution direct the Executive Officer to present the revised package to the Board for approval.

**Action: Boardmember Kirkwood moved and Boardmember Hunt seconded a motion to delegate authority to the Executive Officer to adopt amendments after the public comment period unless there are substantial changes to the Conflict of Interest regulation. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **XI. 2009-10 Grant Allocation (ACTION)**

Branham explained that staff is considering proposing changes to the grant allocation for the 2009-10 grant cycle. He noted that staff had hoped changes in the Guidelines for the current year would result in more applications for on-the-ground projects, but that did not occur. Therefore, he said staff is discussing a single round of grants in 2009-2010, which would focus on the types of applications currently received as Competitive and Strategic Opportunity Grants 1. He suggested the SNC could also allow for applications for pre-project due diligence work currently awarded as SOG 2s. By limiting grants to a single round, he indicated that staff would be able to focus on managing grants already awarded by the SNC and working even more with grant applicants to develop project ideas.

Boardmember Kirkwood stated that his overall reaction to the proposal is positive, because it would move the SNC even more in the direction of on-the-ground projects, which is the heart and soul of bond funds. He suggested that a reallocation of funds from SOGs to competitive might even be a good idea in the current year given his review of the project descriptions for all of the recommended projects and the strong tie he saw between the competitive applications and the appropriate use of bond funds.

Branham stated that the competitive grant recommendations would be brought to the Board in March and that we would also have received the second round of the SOG applications by then, so that we might be better able at that time to determine whether some sort of reallocation in the current year would make sense. He noted that competitive grant applications have been concentrated in particular parts of the region, so that is something the Board would need to consider in reallocating current year funding.

Boardmember Wilensky expressed his concern that some areas don't have as many resources to put together good projects and applications and suggested that need also should be a factor in allocating resources including resources to assist potential grantees in generating project ideas and applications.

Branham said that the potential changes to next year's grant program would provide staff with more time to work with potential grantees.

Boardmember McQuiston said that he is uncomfortable changing this year's allocation and that he sees a number of pros and cons to the potential changes in next year's

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

### **December 4, 2008**

grant program. He stated that the Board would be in a better position to make decisions at a future meeting when more information is available.

Boardmember Weygandt stated that staff “set a record” in helping grant applicants. He also stated his view that Boardmember Kirkwood's comments have merit and that we need to look at what can be done between now and the end of the year to ensure we are funding the best projects.

Branham stated that the last deadline for SOG applications is at the end of February. In the meantime, staff are providing some assistance to grantees and trying to focus grantees on the best types of projects. He indicated that by March we'll know what came in as SOG applications and so the Board will have more information to consider a different approach.

Boardmember Schladale expressed his concern that bond funds have a limited intent and use and projects may not qualify for bond funding just because they are a good project. He said it would be good to find alternative funding sources for some projects and stated that the Department of Finance's perspective is that a focus on on-the-ground projects is appropriate and asked if staff had taken their grant recommendations to the Attorney General.

Branham noted that Deputy Attorney General Sproul had reviewed all of the recommended projects. Sproul stated that the projects being recommended had been looked at carefully and that Proposition 84 contains specific language that provides more latitude for some activities.

Boardmember Sher asked if there were a way to flag projects that meet the general obligation bond filter and others that meet the Proposition 84 filter.

Branham stated that SOG 2s would generally be the ones that fell in the latter category and that staff could talk with DAG Sproul to see how we might be able to provide that information.

Sproul stated that there is specific language in Proposition 84 that allows for certain activities not typically addressed in general obligation bond law, for example, fuels reduction.

Boardmember Schladale agreed that all of the projects are worthwhile, but that it is important to ask “what is the physical asset we are getting?” His concern is that the independent bond counsel might unravel some of the commitments the SNC has made.

Sproul noted that there have been significant discussions within the Attorney General's Office regarding the merit of preserving asset value, which is different than acquiring assets and they both qualify for funding.



## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 4, 2008**

Schladale expressed an interest in learning more and Branham suggested that more guidance from the Department of Finance is also helpful and that it would make sense to get the Finance attorney, the Attorney General's Office, and the SNC together to discuss these issues.

Boardmember Kirkwood said it is important not to make ourselves vulnerable when the next bond act is up for a vote—that we not only do not want to be legally vulnerable, but that we don't want to be politically vulnerable either.

**Action: Boardmember Wilensky moved and Boardmember Warner seconded a motion to direct to proceed with development of an allocation plan as described and to allow proper time be allocated at the March Board meeting for a full discussion relative to this issue, with a staff report to include reports from the Department of Finance and Attorney General's office, fully reconciled for Board deliberations. The motion passed unanimously.**

### **XII. Strategic Plan Update (ACTION)**

Joan Keegan, Assistant Executive Officer, reported this is the 2 ½-year mark of the SNC Strategic Plan, and the good news is, it's a really good Plan that has stood its ground and still is very sound. Keegan outlined the five areas of proposed changes to strengthen the plan: 1) Update the content to reflect changes in the SNC's guidelines, office locations, etc.; 2) Move completed actions to an appendix; 3) Better distinguish between specific actions and more general strategies; 4) Report on progress based on the actions/strategies identified within each year's action plan; and 5) Remove the section that contained initial project ideas contributed through public input (but keep in an appendix), since the SNC now has actual projects to report on.

Boardmember McQuiston asked what the staff is recommending for next steps. Keegan notified the Board that staff would like approval to send the document out for public comment noting any Boardmember comments could be provided to staff during the comment period. It was suggested to incorporate results from the previous grant discussion into the Strategic Plan, if appropriate. Boardmember Brissenden pointed out the need to flesh out the education piece a bit more, especially regarding the fact that a public that is educated about watershed and natural resource stewardship is indeed an "asset" to the State of California. Branham clarified that the Strategic Plan covers the entire SNC program, not just activities funded by Proposition 84.

**Action: Boardmember Sher moved and Boardmember Brissenden seconded a motion to approve staff's posting of the draft revised document for public comment and returning to the March Board meeting with a final draft including public comments. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Board Meeting Minutes  
December 4, 2008**

**XIII. Strategic Opportunity Grants (ACTION)**

Kerri Timmer, SNC Program Manager, provided an overview and background of the SNC grant program and explained the types of grants that the SNC offers. To put this year's recommendations in context, Timmer briefly reviewed last year's grant awards and directed Board members to take a moment to look at the printed maps that illustrate those awards. Timmer went on to remind Board members that staff was in the process of evaluating the Competitive applications that will be to them for discussion and possible authorization at the March, 2009 Board meeting.

Boardmember Kirkwood stated that the staff review in previous rounds was solid and consistent with Board guidance and requested that future Board materials provide details about the Executive Officer Authorizations that happen between Board meetings and that project summaries identify whether the project is a SOG 1 or a SOG 2.

Boardmember Pendleton asked for confirmation that staff will follow up with the projects that were on the not recommended list and Timmer confirmed that staff is already working with those applicants whose projects fell in the Medium ranking.

Region-Wide

Bob Kingman, Mt. Lassen Area Regional Manager, informed Boardmembers that project number SNC 080082 will include a special provision in the grant agreement to work with long-standing existing clean-up efforts so as not to hamper or negatively affect those efforts. Kingman read the language to include in the motion to this effect.

Boardmember Schladale requested further discussion about the individual projects in individual Subregions.

North Subregion

Bob Kingman reported that staff was recommending 5 projects in the North Subregion for a total of \$408,580. Boardmember Kirkwood and members of the Board held detailed discussion about SNC 080213 – the South Ash Valley Project. Boardmember Kirkwood spoke in defense of the project. Boardmember Schladale asked clarifying questions about the physical, on-the-ground assets the project would provide for the taxpayers of the state. There was additional discussion about whether General Obligation Bond law or Proposition 84 requirements take precedent when determining whether or not to authorize a grant application.

Boardmember Sher brought up conservation easements in general and the Jameson Ranch project in particular. Boardmember Sher wondered if there was a real and immediate threat to the property or the working ranch on which the conservation easement was being proposed in the Jamison Ranch Conservation Easement application (SNC 080131). Boardmember Sher wondered if this type of project was likely to be a common type of application received by the SNC. Boardmember

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 4, 2008**

Kirkwood responded that he hoped that the SNC received many applications to fund the purchase of conservation easements before a property became threatened in hopes that the SNC would be able to protect properties at a lower value.

**Action: Boardmember Dahle made a motion and Boardmember Wilensky seconded to approve Projects SNC 080151, SNC 080220, SNC 080222, and SNC 080223. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Action: Boardmember Dahle made a motion and Boardmember Wilensky seconded to approve Project SNC 080213. Boardmember Schladale opposed Project SNC 080213. The motion passed.**

### North Central Subregion

Bob Kingman reported that the staff recommended 5 projects in the North Central Subregion for a total of \$434,219. Boardmember Schladale identified two projects, SNC 080041 and SNC 080165 that he'd like to discuss in more detail.

**Action: Boardmember Kirkwood made a motion and Boardmember Hunt seconded to approve SNC 080131, SNC 080156, and SNC 080163A. The motion passed unanimously.**

Regarding SNC 080041, Boardmember Schladale asked if there is specific language in Proposition 84 that authorized fuel reduction projects. DAG Sproul indicated there was language in Section 75050.

**Action: Boardmember Warner made a motion and Boardmember Hunt seconded to approve and SNC 080041. The motion passed unanimously.**

Regarding SNC 080165, an education project, Boardmember Schladale indicated that he saw no on-the-ground asset resulting from this project. Branham indicated that this project was likely to be one that would benefit from the discussion about Proposition 84/General Obligation Bond priorities that will take place between the Department of Finance and the Attorney General's office.

**Action: Boardmember Schladale moved to hold SNC 080165 for further discussion in March pending a report by SNC Counsel. The motion died for lack of a second.**

**Action: Boardmember Warner made a motion and Boardmember Wilensky seconded to approve and SNC 080165. Boardmember Schladale opposed. The motion passed.**

### East Subregion

Kim Carr, the Mt. Whitney Area Manager, reported that staff was recommending four projects in the East Subregion for a total of \$265,446. Boardmember Schladale requested clarification of the project summary wording for application SNC 080119.

## **Board Meeting Minutes December 4, 2008**

Boardmember Kirkwood commented that SNC 080210 didn't make a very clear watershed connection and that he didn't feel that the in-class education experience proposed in this application would make the same kind of lasting experience for students that an on-the ground education experience would. Kirkwood was troubled by the potential precedent funding a "light" education project with bond funds might set across the state. Kirkwood suggested the SNC Board needed to give more guidance to staff about the types of education projects the SNC should fund.

### Public Comment:

Joan Clayburgh, Sierra Nevada Alliance: spoke in favor of the project stating "Jack Laws is an exceptional educator with an ability to relate that made him 'better than outside'."

Boardmember Schladale requested clarification that project SNC 080181 would deliver more than just a study or would lead to something on the ground. Boardmember Haigh and Kim Carr responded to the question by suggesting that the type of data gathered in this project would complement the pre-fire data that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) collected prior to the burn. According to Haigh, the new data collected through this project would have a brick and mortar effect, allowing effective decision making and building a solid foundation to help the BLM with future land use planning.

SNC 080210 was pulled for further discussion related to the finite asset or lasting effect on watershed health.

**Action: Boardmember Hunt made a motion and Boardmember Wilensky seconded to approve Projects SNC 080119, SNC 080181 and SNC 080185. Boardmember Schladale abstained from voting. The motion passed unanimously.**

### South Subregion

Kim Carr reported that staff was recommending four projects in the South Subregion for a total of \$254,951. Boardmember Schladale questioned the on-the-ground long term benefits and delivery of physical assets that would still exist in 20 years as a result of projects SNC 080109 and SNC 080116. Carr indicated that it was staff's view that there would be long term benefits from both projects.

SNC 080109 was pulled for further discussion.

**Action: Boardmember McQuiston made a motion and Boardmember Wilensky seconded to approve Projects SNC 080116, SNC 080189 and SNC 080226. Boardmember Schladale abstained from voting on SNC 080116. The motion passed unanimously.**

## **Board Meeting Minutes December 4, 2008**

### South Central Subregion

Kim Carr reported that staff was recommending five projects in the South Central Subregion for a total of \$345,100. Boardmember Schladale questioned the long term benefits resulting from two of the five projects: SNC 080029 and SNC 080193.

SNC 080029 was pulled for further discussion.

**Action: Boardmember Wilensky made a motion and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded to approve Projects SNC 080101, SNC 080193, SNC 080199, and SNC 080205. Boardmember Schladale abstained from voting on SNC 080199. The motion passed unanimously.**

### Central Subregion

Bob Kingman reported that staff was recommending seven projects in the Central Subregion for a total of \$572,636 with specific CEQA specifications on SNC 080092 and SNC 080149. Timmer read the specific CEQA approval language into the record.

**Action: Boardmember Brissenden made a motion and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded to: direct staff to file a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and file a Notice of Determination (NOD) for project SNC 080092, the Nevada City Environs Trail and Restoration Project; find that the Environmental Impact Report is adequate for SNC 080149, the Hazel Creek Meadow Restoration Project, and that impacts will be mitigated to less than significant levels with mitigations included in the project; to direct staff to file an NOD for SNC 080149; and direct staff to enter into all necessary agreements and file the appropriate CEQA documentation with the State Clearinghouse for all authorized projects. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Board returned to the Projects that were held for further discussion.

In the Region-wide category there were two projects that were held: SNC 080082 and SNC 080207. There was conversation about the enduring asset of this project. Kingman posed that the project is an effort to establish long term annual river clean ups and that the removal of tons of garbage from the streams is a long term benefit. Kingman reported on some of the partners involved with the project.

**Action: Boardmember Brissenden made a motion and Boardmember Ferrera seconded to approve Project SNC 080082. Boardmember Schladale opposed Project SNC 080082. The motion passed.**

The Board discussed SNC 080207 – with the primary conversation revolving around the motivation for moving this project from the South Central Subregion specifically to the Region-wide category. Carr explained that the project is being used as a model and that the deliverables had been scaled back to achieve that goal.

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 4, 2008**

**Action: Boardmember Kirkwood made a motion and Boardmember Wilensky seconded to approve Project SNC 080207. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Board discussed SNC 080210 in the East Subregion. Boardmember Hunt suggested that the Board develop a clear policy for funding education projects in the future. Boardmember Wilensky asked staff to prepare a set of guidelines for how to approach education projects for the purpose of next year's funding for Board review at the March meeting. Boardmember Schladales pointed out that he felt that this project, in particular, would fail the General Obligation bond test. Branham suggested that the project be deferred.

**Action: Boardmember Wilensky made a motion and Boardmember Hunt seconded to conditionally approve Project SNC 080210 pending the outcome of meetings between the Department of Finance and the Attorney General's office and the creation of a memo to provide guidance regarding funding education grants with bond funding. Boardmember Kirkwood opposed Project SNC 080210. The motion passed.**

The Board discussed SNC 080109 in the South Subregion. Boardmember McQuiston gave full support for the project concurring with staff recommendation for funding the project and stating that this rare resource needs protection.

### Public Comment:

Ron and Judy Hyatt, Kern River Residents: spoke in support of the project.

**Action: Boardmember McQuiston made a motion and Boardmember Hunt seconded to approve Project SNC 080109. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Board recalled project SNC 080029 from the South Central Subregion for discussion. Boardmember Wilensky stated that this is an extreme example of a successful education program.

### Public Comment:

Valerie Kleinfelder, Chair of Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Council spoke in support of the project.

**Action: Boardmember Sher made a motion and Boardmember Kirkwood seconded to approve Project SNC 080029. Boardmember Schladales opposed Project SNC 080029. The motion passed.**

## **XIV. Boardmembers' Comments**

Boardmember Hunt stated, "It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board and that the East Subregion has benefitted from the existence of the SNC."

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**December 4, 2008**

Boardmember Wilensky noted having County Supervisors on the Board really brings grounded viewpoints and suggested that a longer term should be considered because it takes 1 year just to get going.

Boardmember Weygandt stated it has been an incredible privilege to be a part of the group and commented positively on his history of participating in the making of the SNC.

Branham thanked the Board and its members, thanking Vice Chair Weygandt, for his service as a Vice Chair. Branham then reminded members that a group photo would be taken on the deck outside.

Boardmember Wilensky stated Boardmembers Hunt and Weygandt have been good for SNC and suggested some kind of "lifetime servitude" so that they never forget the Board.

### **XV. Public Comments**

Addie Jacobsen, Ebbets Pass Forest Watch, thanked the SNC for coming to her home town. She was pleased the Board got to see local projects like the revitalization of downtown Murphys, the CHIPS program, and Love Creek, projects that represent the wonderful things that can happen in the region. However, she pointed out that clearcutting is still happening in this part of the region. She has approached the Board before requesting that the SNC establish a task force on clearcutting. That request was denied. But if not that, is there something else the SNC could do to address the issue? Jacobsen handed out informational packets with photos showing clearcutting activities in eight Sierra counties and a map of current Timber Harvest Plans on land adjacent to these clearcuts. She provided data showing that in just the past eight years (since 2000), SPI has gotten more than 250,000 acres approved for clearcutting or near-clearcutting. She urged the SNC to consider a role it might play in this matter.

### **Adjournment**

Vice Chair Weygandt adjourned the meeting at 1:31PM.